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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Portuguese Government Continues To Press For More Discipline

The Portuguese cabinet has requested a joint meeting with the Revolutionary Council to discuss the country's crisis of authority. In particular, it said it hoped to learn what action the Council would take to implement a presidential decree ordering the surrender of all illegally held arms. A week-long amnesty for turning in the arms was held October 17-25, but only a handful were surrendered.

Portugal's decolonization plans in Angola were also reaffirmed by the cabinet on Monday. The government's even-handed policy there has been severely attacked by the left, which wants to turn over power exclusively to the Moscow-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola when the African colony becomes independent on November 11. On Monday evening Leftists held a rally in Lisbon to support the Popular Movement, but it drew only 1,000 demonstrators.

In what appears to be a further step to purge the media of Communist influence, the cabinet urged social communications minister Almeida Santos to speed up the recently announced media reorganization. The cabinet also ruled that the dispute over control of the newspaper O Seculo between Communist and non-Communist workers must be solved through legal channels and it ordered an inquiry into the case. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Rightist Leader Supports Gradual Democratization in Spain

The Marques de la Florida, vice-president of Spain's largest veterans organization, told the US embassy last week that it would support gradual liberalization under Juan Carlos. This support was conditioned, however, on the understanding that the Communist Party would not be allowed in the political structure. He also admitted that local affiliates of his organization had been alerted to stay in close touch for special instructions.

Most reporting indicates that Juan Carlos will be given a period of grace to show how he views the future of Spain. Several leftist political groups, for example, have said they are willing to give the new king a chance to institute democratic change.

This climate of post-Franco harmony will dissipate rapidly, however, if one side or the other decides that Juan Carlos' policy is detrimental to its long term interests. In this connection, trouble from extremists on both sides could very well force Juan Carlos to take action sooner than he would like.

The reported effort by leaders of the National Movement, Spain's only legal political organization, to dismantle the far right "New Force" led by Falangist Blas Pinar is an example of the danger that these fringe groups represent.

the New Force is prepared to endure such repressions and continue to oppose political liberalization in any form.

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Thus while most responsible Spanish politicians recognize the need for changes it will be the pace at which these changes are implemented and the scope of their content that will determine the chances for a smooth transition. (SECRET NOFORN)

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